

Message Text

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61

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L:KMALMBORG (INFO)

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R 262235Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202497

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION MOSCOW INFO BONN BERLIN FROM STATE
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE RE ASKING SOVIETS FOR WAR CRIMES
EVIDENCE

REF: MOSCOW 7991 NOTAL

1. REPRESENTATIVE HOLTZMAN HAS PUBLICLY CRITICIZED DEPART-
MENT FOR ALLEGED DELAY IN APPROACHING SOVIETS TO REQUEST
EVIDENCE ABOUT ALLEGED WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY PERSONS
RESIDING IN UNITED STATES (REFTEL).

2. IF QUERIED BY MOSCOW PRESS CORPS, EMBASSY MOSCOW
SHOULD SAY THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN INSTRUCTED BY DEPARTMENT
TO MAKE SUCH REQUESTS OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT; EMBASSY UNDER-
CONFIDENTIAL

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STANDS GENERAL QUESTION IS SUBJECT OF CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND ANY QUEST-
IONS AT THIS TIME SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DEPARTMENT IN
WASHINGTON.

3. IF ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY EVER MADE SUCH REQUESTS TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT, EMBASSY MAY REPLY THAT TO THE BEST OF ITS KNOWLEDGE NO SUCH REQUESTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, CERTAINLY NOT IN RECENT YEARS.

4. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FOLLOWING WAS RELEVANT TRANSCRIPT

AT AUGUST 25 NOON BRIEFING AT DEPARTMENT:

QUOTE: Q: ANY COMMENT ON CONGRESSWOMAN HOLTZMAN'S CHARGE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PURSUING NAZI CRIMINALS WITH SUFFICIENT ZEAL?

A: I UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH A LETTER HAS ARRIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT. I HAVE NOT SEEN IT. I THINK WE HAD WRITTEN EARLIER TO THE CONGRESSWOMAN AND ALSO TO OTHER CONGRESSMEN ABOUT THAT, THAT THERE IS A CHECK ON THIS BEING MADE. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, BUT WE HAVE NOT HAD A REPLY YET.

Q: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR? HAVE YOU WRITTEN TO HIM?

A: WE HAVE SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT FIFTY CASES FROM THE BERLIN DOCUMENTS CENTER AND FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR CHECK WITH THE BERLIN DOCUMENTS CENTER. WE ARE WAITING FOR A REPLY FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

Q: AS I READ THE STORY, I THOUGHT IT SAID THAT CONGRESSWOMAN HOLTZMAN HAD SAID THIS WAS A WASTE OF TIME BECAUSE THOSE CHECKS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND THAT IS WHAT SHE WAS PROTESTING.

A: THE FACTS ARE THAT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REPLY FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

Q: SHE SAID THAT THAT INFORMATION ALREADY WAS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE; THEY ALREADY CHECKED THE DOCUMENTS CENTER AND THE OTHER SOURCES.

A: I JUST CANNOT COMMENT ON HER ALLEGATION.

Q: WHEN DID YOU ASK FOR INFORMATION IN GERMANY?

A: WHEN DID WE ASK? I DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION. I DO NOT HAVE THE DATE OF OUR REQUEST.

Q: YOU SAID BEFORE TODAY THAT THE CHECK WAS BEING MADE,
DIDN'T YOU?

A: PARDON ME?

Q: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME YOU POINTED OUT THERE WAS
A CHECK BEING MADE.

A: YES. WE HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE, I BELIEVE, WITH
VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON THIS QUESTION. UNQUOTE.
INGERSOLL UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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